Santa Cruz County Democratic Party Endorsement Questionnaire for the Primary Election 2024

Must be completed and submitted no later than December 1, 2023 at 5 PM.
Santa Cruz County Democrats, PO Box 7763, Santa Cruz, 95061,
or by email: endorsements@cruzdcc.groups.io

The Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee will be considering endorsing eligible Democrats who have qualified to appear on the ballot in the Primary Election on March 5, 2024 for both contested and uncontested positions. In order to be eligible, a candidate must be a registered Democrat for at least three months prior to the final filing date for that candidate's race in this election. An endorsement by us automatically carries an endorsement by the California Democratic Party.

All eligible candidates who wish to be considered for endorsement are invited to complete our Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire and **return a copy** electronically **(1)** via Google Forms, **or (2)** by email to endorsements@cruzdcc.groups.io no later than December 1, 2023 at 5 PM, **or (3)** by USPS Mail postmarked no later than November 27th, to arrive by December 1, 2023 to Santa Cruz County Democratic Central Committee, PO Box 7763, Santa Cruz, CA 95061. Due to recently implemented USPS delays, we encourage an electronic reply.

Thank you for submitting your questionnaire. We look forward to hearing from you at our Endorsement Forum on **December 13, 2023 at 7 PM** at LOCATION TBD

Questions: Please email us at endorsements@cruzdcc.groups.io

Email *

gabriela@votegabriela.org

Candidate Name *

Gabriela Trigueiro

Candidate Phone Number *

831-334-0107

Candidate Email *

gabriela@votegabriela.org

Preferred Mailing Address *

603B Poplar Ave

Preferred Phone Number *

831-334-0107

Name of Campaign Committee and FPPC *

FRIENDS OF TRIGUEIRO FOR CITY COUNCIL 2024, FPPC# 1463118

Campaign Website *

https://www.votegabriela.org/

Social Media *

@smellinglikeflowers (IG) @gabriela.trigueiro.7 (FB)

Candidate headshot for future use should candidate be endorsed

Gabriela - Gabriel...

What are the approximate years you have been registered as Democrat in Santa Cruz County? *

10 Years

Have you been registered in another county? If so, in what county were you registered and how long were you registered?

Sacramento, San Francisco, and Alameda counties; I am also a former member and volunteer of DSA East Bay.

Describe your involvement with the Democratic Party in the local, state, or national level over the past few years. *

I have supported democratic candidates in local races in Santa Cruz county and in Alameda county. During my masters degree, I centered my thesis and capstone project on equitable fares for BART (public transportation) in support of the campaign for Lateefah Simon in 2016. Until recently, I was also an alternate for the Santa Cruz County Democratic Party (DCC Santa Cruz). In 2022, I got volunteers and distributed literature to pass Measures K&L to support our local schools.

List the 10 organizational or personal endorsements of your candidacy that you consider to be the most important or most representative of your campaign (Please separate each endorsement with a semicolon). *

YIMBY Santa Cruz;
Martine Watkins - Councilmember, Former Mayor;
Shebreh Kalantari - Councilmember;
Ryan Coonerty – Former Mayor and District 3 County Supervisor;
Ilene Feinman, Commissioner City of Santa Cruz CPVAW
Kyle Kelley, Santa Cruz City Schools Board Trustee

Briefly describe the aspects of your background and experiences that indicate your qualifications for the office you seek. *

As the Executive Director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Santa Cruz County, I bring experience in leadership, organizational rebuilding, and expansion initiatives. Actively engaged in my local community, I volunteer at my son's elementary school and collaborate with the local chapter of Moms Demand Action, advocating for gun safety. Additionally, I serve as a city commissioner for the City of Santa Cruz's Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women, in dedication to creating safer and more inclusive communities. My commitment to community development is evident in my current role, where I recently expanded the service area of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Santa Cruz County to respond to calls for service in Monterey and San Benito counties. I hold a Masters of Public Policy from Mills College, which is a womxn- and queer-led institution. While living in Oakland, I engaged in consulting work for the City of Oakland's Public Ethics Commission and the Canal Alliance in Marin County, demonstrating my expertise in both policy and practical application. I also have a degree in Spanish Literature and Dance from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where I was an academic scholarship recipient as well as a grant funded performing artist.
Advocating for equity and increased access to education, healthcare, and public transportation has been a cornerstone of my career. I have been a fervent supporter of immigration rights for undocumented and mixed-status families, a priority in my commitment to social justice.
In my consulting roles, I have worked with local businesses, governments, officials, and advocacy groups across several California counties, focusing on finance and compliance. This experience has equipped me with a nuanced understanding of the financial intricacies involved in municipal governance.

What are the top five major issues facing this office? (Please label each one and briefly describe. Separate each with a semicolon). *

Prioritizing Fire Resilience and Safety Measures:
As your representative in District One, I am dedicated to enhancing our community's fire safety measures and resilience planning. I will actively advocate for increased funding and resources to ensure that our neighborhoods are well-prepared and protected from potential hazards, ensuring the safety of our residents is a top priority. ;
Empowering Youth and Supporting Families:
I believe in prioritizing the well-being of our children and families in Santa Cruz. My commitment is to champion programs that provide inclusive educational opportunities, expand affordable childcare initiatives, and create safe recreational spaces. Together, we can empower our youth to thrive and support families throughout their journey. ;
Ensuring Street Safety and Community Accessibility:
My goal is to make Santa Cruz streets safe for everyone. I will advocate for smart traffic solutions, improved infrastructure, and community initiatives to enhance the safety of our neighborhoods. By doing so, we can create a city that is accessible and safe for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers alike. ;
Taking Immediate Action on Youth Housing Solutions:
Recognizing the urgency of housing and homelessness challenges, I pledge to take immediate action. Specifically, I aim to address the housing challenges faced by our youth, implementing effective strategies to provide safe and affordable housing options for unaccompanied youth and families with young people. Together, we can ensure stable living conditions and support systems for our younger population. ;
Advocating for Mixed Status Families and Community Members:
I am deeply committed to amplifying the voices and addressing the unique challenges faced by mixed status families and community members who are not citizens. I will work tirelessly to promote their issues, advocating for policies that protect the rights and well-being of all community members, regardless of their immigration status. Let's create a more inclusive environment where everyone feels heard and supported in our diverse community.

In 2022, voters overwhelming voted against the Greenway initiative (Measure D). However, there are still concerns about the likelihood of the rail trail being built and the environmental impacts it could cause. Please explain your position on the rail trail and public transportation in our community. *

I voted (as a citizen) against Measure D in 2022. I prioritize improvements and increased accessibility for those who rely on public transportation (and encourage new ridership). Investing in a robust public transportation system can have wide-ranging benefits for our community: It not only reduces traffic congestion and lowers emissions but also enhances overall mobility, making it easier for people without cars to navigate the area. By prioritizing public transportation, we can create a more inclusive, safer, and sustainable community.

Housing is still among the top issues in the county. Many residents are rent-burdened and find it difficult to gain the generational wealth that previous generations have been able to build. How will you address housing issues in your district and the county overall? *

In addressing the urgent housing challenges facing District 1 Santa Cruz and the county, I support robust initiatives including: the implementation of inclusive zoning policies to promote the development of affordable housing, with a particular focus on streamlining the permitting and construction processes for such projects. I also support initiatives aimed at increasing access to homeownership. This includes supporting down payment assistance programs and low-interest loans. Recognizing the importance of collaboration, I emphasize the need for working closely with the County, residents and developers to ensure sustainable planning that balances growth with housing affordability. Lastly and importantly, I underscore the significance of investing in public transportation to enhance access to affordable housing options.
In enhancing tenant protection, and as a renter, I commit to advocating for renter-friendly laws, such as the elimination of application fees and standardizing charges. Strengthening collaborations with the County Housing Authority is a priority, with a focus on refining security deposit loan programs. To engage the community, I support a local employment preference policy for housing and the integration of childcare centers into housing projects to increase affordable childcare options.
Continued investment in tenant protection services is crucial, and I suggest exploring funding from a portion of the Transient Occupancy Tax. Emphasizing community outreach for programs like rental inspections and legal aid ensures inclusivity for all Santa Cruz residents.
Furthermore, I support city measures that explore tax increases or bond initiatives to enhance local resources dedicated to affordable housing. Additionally, I would advocate for increasing consistently directing revenues generated from the sales of city land/property into our Affordable Housing Trust Fund, solidifying our commitment to affordable housing initiatives.

How will you ensure that the County's (or City's) infrastructure (such as water, electricity, roads) are maintained equitably in your district? *

As a City Council candidate, my commitment is to equitable infrastructure maintenance extends to proactive measures ensuring fairness. I will institute policies that specifically address historical disparities in resource allocation, giving priority to underserved communities. Moreover, I will advocate for targeted investments in areas with greater needs, fostering balanced development across neighborhoods. By closely monitoring project impacts through community-oriented and data-driven assessments, I'll ensure that benefits are distributed proportionately, minimizing any potential for disproportionate effects on vulnerable populations. This comprehensive approach aims not only to address current disparities but also to rectify historical inequities, fostering a more inclusive and just community.

What steps will you take towards having a climate resiliency and mitigation plan in place to ensure the safety of all the residents with equity in mind? *

In my commitment to building a climate-resilient and more equitable city, I advocate for actively supporting the inclusive and effective implementation of our city's adopted Climate Action Plan. This involves championing ongoing efforts to ensure the success of the plan and addressing any challenges that may arise during its execution.
A crucial aspect of this endeavor is fostering inclusive dialogue and collaboration with diverse community members and interested organizations. Their insights are invaluable in shaping policies that directly address the unique needs of marginalized communities within our city. By engaging in meaningful conversations, we can create a more comprehensive and responsive approach to sustainability. In the realm of emergency preparedness, it is crucial to develop inclusive response plans that prioritize the safety and accessibility of all residents, particularly those in marginalized communities.
In addition, we should invest in green infrastructure projects to fortify our city's resilience. This includes initiatives such as creating more green spaces, implementing improved water management systems, and promoting sustainable architecture to enhance our urban landscape.
Sustainable transportation planning is another key area of focus, aiming to reduce carbon emissions and promote eco-friendly modes of travel -- pivotal in creating a greener and more efficient urban transportation system.
Citizen engagement is paramount. I realized early on that sustainable practices in our daily lives, like embracing renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies, aren't just choices but necessities. They are the building blocks of a collective effort towards our climate goals. To embody this belief, I made a personal commitment that would test my resolve and dedication.
For ten years (2011-2021), I chose a lifestyle devoid of a personal car, relying solely on public transportation. This wasn't just a minor adjustment; it was a complete transformation of my daily life. It meant planning my days around bus schedules, walking extra miles, and sometimes facing the inconvenience of not having a quick and easy transportation option. But with every step on this journey, my conviction grew stronger.
This personal commitment became a testament to the power of individual impact. It's a narrative I've shared with friends, neighbors, and colleagues, not to boast, but to demonstrate that change starts with us. Each small step we take can ripple out into our community.

Please provide an example of when and how input and/or evidence has convinced you to override your initial opinion on a public policy issue? *

N/A I have not held office previously.

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